



Department of the Interior Recovery Investments *Investing in America's Economic Recovery*



Sky Islands and Desert Seas Restoration, Phase II: Safford Field Office Vegetation Treatments

Need

Across many areas of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) portion of the Sky Islands portion shrubs such as whitethorn acacia, wait-a-bit mimosa, catclaw acacia, prickly pear cactus, creosote, and mesquite have increased to undesirable levels through lack of fire and/or historic management of livestock. The increased shrub component in these areas has resulted in a decrease in the perennial grass, vegetative species diversity, habitat for wildlife and, in some cases, the loss of soil. The BLM's Safford Field Office Vegetation Treatments Project has identified areas with the greatest potential to naturally reseed and will treat those areas by applying herbicide to these polygons across the landscape regardless of grazing allotment boundaries. Success in improvement of these habitats will be determined by monitoring both before and after treatment. Success in this endeavor will also entail use of prescribed fire in the future to clean up shrub kill and promote perennial grass growth. Work on this project is expected to take place in November-December between 2009 and 2011.

Add overview map showing state, capital, field office, and project location. (use alt tag for web)

Recovery Act Funding

Information about the funding allocated for this BLM-Arizona American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project will be released after the contract has been awarded.

Benefits

Decreasing shrub invasion will help recovery of native grasslands, resulting in a healthier ecosystem, more productive rangelands for grazing, and better wildlife habitat. Ranchers fully support the improvement of degraded grasslands and conservation groups support wildlife habitat restoration.



More Information

For more information about this BLM ARRA project, contact Lance Brady, Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources, at 928-348-4426 or Lance_R_Brady@blm.gov; or the BLM-Arizona ARRA Coordinator, at 602-417-9641.